

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A transmitting apparatus for transmitting  
a layer structure of a directory which manages  
public key certificate information in a layer manner,  
5 comprising:

managing means for making certificate  
authority information correspond to a container  
entry which can store its own subordinate  
information, making end entity information  
10 correspond to a leaf entry which is under domination  
of said container entry and cannot store its own  
subordinate information, and managing a layer  
structure of a directory constructed by said  
container entry and said leaf entry;

detecting means for detecting a change of  
said layer structure of said directory which is  
managed by said managing means and obtaining  
differential information constructed by a difference  
of the change of the layer structure of said  
15 directory on the basis of a detection result; and

transmitting means for transmitting said  
differential information detected by said detecting  
means,

wherein information which can obtain  
25 latest public key certificate information and lapse  
information of said latest public key certificate  
information are stored into said container entry

and/or said leaf entry.

2. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said lapse information is a serial number of said public key certificate information.

5 3. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein one of said latest public key certificate information and the information for obtaining said latest public key certificate information can be selected and stored into attributes of said container entry and/or said leaf entry.

10 4. An apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the information which is stored into said attributes can be changed between said latest public key certificate information and the information for obtaining said latest public key certificate information in accordance with an elapsed time from an updating event in which said difference has been detected by said detecting means.

15 5. A transmitting method of transmitting a layer structure of a directory which manages public key certificate information in a layer manner, comprising:

20 a managing step of making certificate authority information correspond to a container entry which can store its own subordinate information, making end entity information correspond to a leaf entry which is under domination

of said container entry and cannot store its own subordinate information, and managing a layer structure of a directory constructed by said container entry and said leaf entry;

5           a detecting step of detecting a change of said layer structure of said directory which is managed by said managing step and obtaining differential information constructed by a difference of the change of said layer structure of said  
10           directory on the basis of a detection result; and

          a transmitting step of transmitting said differential information detected by said detecting step,

          wherein information which can obtain latest public key certificate information and lapse information of said latest public key certificate information are stored into said container entry and/or said leaf entry.

6.           A receiving apparatus for receiving a  
20           transmitted layer structure of a directory which manages public key certificate information in a layer manner, comprising:

          receiving means for making transmitted certificate authority information correspond to a  
25           container entry which can store its own subordinate information, making end entity information correspond to a leaf entry which is under domination

of said container entry and cannot store its own subordinate information, and receiving differential information comprising a difference of a change of a layer structure of a directory which is constructed by said container entry and said leaf entry and obtained on the basis of a detection result obtained by detecting the change of said layer structure of said directory;

managing means for managing said layer structure of said directory constructed on the basis of said differential information received by said receiving means; and

changing means for selectively fetching said differential information and changing said layer structure of said directory which is managed by said managing means,

wherein information which can obtain latest public key certificate information and lapse information of said latest public key certificate information are stored into said container entry and/or said leaf entry and transmitted.

7. An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said lapse information is a serial number of said public key certificate information.

8. An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said changing means selectively fetches updating information of said container entry and/or said leaf

entry corresponding to a certificate information pass for obtaining said public key certificate information.

9. A receiving method of receiving a transmitted layer structure of a directory which manages public key certificate information in a layer manner, comprising:

a receiving step of making transmitted certificate authority information correspond to a container entry which can store its own subordinate information, making end entity information correspond to a leaf entry which is under domination of said container entry and cannot store its own subordinate information, and receiving differential information comprising a difference of a change of a layer structure of a directory which is constructed by said container entry and said leaf entry and obtained on the basis of a detection result obtained by detecting the change of said layer structure of said directory;

a managing step of managing said layer structure of said directory constructed on the basis of said differential information received by said receiving step; and

a changing step of selectively fetching said differential information and changing said layer structure of said directory which is managed by said

managing step,

wherein information which can obtain latest public key certificate information and lapse information of said latest public key certificate information are stored into said container entry and/or said leaf entry and transmitted.

10. A transmitting and receiving system for transmitting a layer structure of a directory which manages public key certificate information in a layer manner and receiving the transmitted layer structure of said directory, comprising:

first managing means for making certificate authority information correspond to a container entry which can store its own subordinate information, making end entity information correspond to a leaf entry which is under domination of said container entry and cannot store its own subordinate information, and managing a layer structure of a directory constructed by said container entry and said leaf entry;

detecting means for detecting a change of said layer structure of said directory which is managed by said first managing means and obtaining differential information constructed by a difference of the change of said layer structure of said directory on the basis of a detection result;

transmitting means for transmitting said

differential information detected by said detecting means;

receiving means for receiving said differential information transmitted by said transmitting means;

second managing means for managing said layer structure of said directory constructed on the basis of said differential information received by said receiving means; and

changing means for selectively fetching said differential information and changing said layer structure of said directory which is managed by said second managing means,

wherein information which can obtain latest public key certificate information and lapse information of said latest public key certificate information are stored into said container entry and/or said leaf entry.

11. A system according to claim 10, wherein said lapse information is a serial number of said public key certificate information.

12. A system according to claim 10, wherein one of said latest public key certificate information and the information for obtaining said latest public key certificate information can be selected, stored into attributes of said container entry and/or said leaf entry, and transmitted.

13. A system according to claim 12, wherein the information which is stored into said attributes can be changed between said latest public key certificate information and the information for obtaining said latest public key certificate information in accordance with an elapsed time from an updating event in which said difference has been detected by said detecting means and transmitted.

14. A system according to claim 10, wherein said changing means selectively fetches updating information of said container entry and/or said leaf entry corresponding to a certificate information pass for obtaining said public key certificate information.

15. A transmitting and receiving method of transmitting a layer structure of a directory which manages public key certificate information in a layer manner and receiving the transmitted layer structure of said directory, comprising:

a first managing step of making certificate authority information correspond to a container entry which can store its own subordinate information, making end entity information correspond to a leaf entry which is under domination of said container entry and cannot store its own subordinate information, and managing a layer structure of a directory constructed by said



container entry and said leaf entry;

5 a detecting step of detecting a change of  
said layer structure of said directory which is  
managed by said first managing step and obtaining  
differential information constructed by a difference  
of the change of said layer structure of said  
directory on the basis of a detection result;

10 a transmitting step of transmitting said  
differential information detected by said detecting  
step;

a receiving step of receiving said  
differential information transmitted by said  
transmitting step;

15 a second managing step of managing said  
layer structure of said directory constructed on the  
basis of said differential information received by  
said receiving step; and

20 a changing step of selectively fetching  
said differential information and changing said  
layer structure of said directory which is managed  
by said second managing step,

25 wherein information which can obtain  
latest public key certificate information and lapse  
information of said latest public key certificate  
information are stored into said container entry  
and/or said leaf entry.